

## Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 SAM-01

ACDA-05 NIC-01 /075 W

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O R 201206Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2163

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: ELECTIONS POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 25

REF: (A) LISBON 1522 (NOTAL)

(B) LISBON 1349 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: ON FLIMSY, TECHNICAL GROUNDS REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL HAS POSTPONED ELECTIONS UNTIL APRIL 25. OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN TO BEGIN APRIL 2. END SUMMARY.

1. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL ANNOUNCED MARCH 19 THAT ELECTIONS FOR CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 12, WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 25, FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF THE OVERTHROW OF THE CAETANO/THOMAZ REGIME. THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CAMPAIGN IS PUSHED BACK FROM MARCH 20 TO APRIL 2.

2. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCING NEW DATES STATED THAT DELAY NECESSITATED BY "TECHNICAL" REASONS, SPECIFICALLY NEED FOR MORE TIME TO REVOLVE PARTY DISPUTES OVER USE OF SYMBOLS ON THE BALLOT AND IN THE CAMPAIGN (LISBON 1422, PARA 7).

3. A DECREE LAW PUBLISHED MARCH 13 PROHIBITED PARTIES FROM USING "SIMILAR" SYMBOLS. BOTH THE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS QUICKLY REGISTERED THEIR RESPECTIVE SYMBOLS. THE FSP, MRPP, FEC-M1, AND UDP LATER ATTEMPTED TO REGISTER SYMBOLS WHICH IN CERTAIN RESPECTS WERE SIMILAR IN THE OPINION OF THE COMMUNISTS AND SOCIALISTS TO THEIRS. THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL DECIDED THIS DISPUTE IN FAVOR OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THE SOCIALISTS AND HAS GIVEN THE FOUR PARTIES MENTIONED ABOVE EIGHT DAYS TO COME UP WITH NEW SYMBOLS. COUNCIL CLAIMS THAT THIS EIGHT-DAY DELAY MAKES COMPLIANCE WITH ORIGINAL ELECTORAL SCHEDULE "PRATICALLY IMPOSSIBLE," HENCE THE ELECTORAL POSTPONEMENT.

4. ONCE THESE TECHNICAL PROBLEMS ARE STRAIGHTENED OUT (BY MARCH 27 AT LATEST), GOVERNMENT WILL BEGIN PRINTING SOME NINE MILLION BALLOTS, WHICH WILL BE DISTRIBUTED TO THE 14,000 VOTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

5. COMMENT: POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS, NOT TECHNICAL, ARE PROBABLY BEHIND THE 13-DAY POSTPONEMENT. PRESUMABLY AFM BELIEVES THAT ELECTORAL RESULTS WILL BE MORE FAVORABLE TO THE REVOLUTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF THE ELECTION IS HELD ON THE SYMBOLIC APRIL 25. CERTAINLY THE FOUR FAR-LEFT PARTIES, WHOSE SYMBOLS MUST BE ALTERED, DO NOT NEED EIGHT DAYS TO CONCOCT SOMETHING NEW. THIS CONCERN FOR FAR-LEFT RIGHTS, COMING AS IT DOES ON HEELS OF SUSPENSION OF TWO FAR-LEFT PARTIES, RINGS HOLLOW AS AN EXCUSE FOR AN ELECTORAL DELAY, ESPECIALLY AFTER REPEATED STATEMENTS BY AFM LEADERS THAT ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD ON SCHEDULED (REF B).

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, NATIONAL ELECTIONS, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** 75 LISBON 1522  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ELECTIONS POSTPONED UNTIL APRIL 25  
**TAGS:** PINT, PO, AFM  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006